

Union Calendar No. 674

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5938

[Report No. 115-871]

To amend the VA Choice and Quality Employment Act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a vacancy and recruitment database to facilitate the recruitment of certain members of the Armed Forces to satisfy the occupational needs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to establish and implement a training and certification program for intermediate care technicians in that Department, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 23, 2018

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

JULY 24, 2018

Additional sponsor: Mr. COFFMAN

JULY 24, 2018

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on May 23, 2018]

A BILL

To amend the VA Choice and Quality Employment Act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a vacancy and recruitment database to facilitate the recruitment of certain members of the Armed Forces to satisfy the occupational needs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to establish and implement a training and certification program for intermediate care technicians in that Department, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 *This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Serving Vet-*
5 *erans Act of 2018”.*

6 **SEC. 2. RECRUITMENT DATABASE.**

7 *(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Section 208 of the VA Choice*
8 *and Quality Employment Act of 2017 (Public Law 115–*
9 *46; 38 U.S.C. 701 note) is amended as follows:*

10 *(1) In subsection (a)—*

11 *(A) in the matter proceeding paragraph (1),*
12 *by striking “a single database” and inserting*
13 *“and maintain a single searchable database (to*
14 *be known as the ‘Departments of Defense and*
15 *Veterans Affairs Recruitment Database’);”*

16 *(B) in paragraph (1), by striking “; and”*
17 *and inserting a semicolon;*

18 *(C) in paragraph (2), by striking the period*
19 *at the end and inserting “; and”; and*

20 *(D) by adding after paragraph (2) the fol-*
21 *lowing new paragraph:*

22 *“(3) with respect to each vacant position under*
23 *paragraphs (1) and (2)—*

24 *“(A) the military occupational specialty or*
25 *skill that corresponds to the position, as deter-*

1 *mined by the Secretary, in consultation with the*
2 *Secretary of Defense; and*

3 *“(B) each qualified member of the Armed*
4 *Forces who may be recruited to fill the position*
5 *before such qualified member of the Armed*
6 *Forces has been discharged and released from ac-*
7 *tive duty.”.*

8 *(2) By redesignating subsections (b), (c), and (d)*
9 *as subsections (f), (g), and (h), respectively.*

10 *(3) By inserting after subsection (a) the fol-*
11 *lowing new subsections:*

12 *“(b) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.—Subject to sub-*
13 *section (c), the database established under subsection (a)*
14 *shall include, with respect to each qualified member of the*
15 *Armed Forces, the following information:*

16 *“(1) The name and contact information of the*
17 *qualified member of the Armed Forces.*

18 *“(2) The date on which the qualified member of*
19 *the Armed Forces is expected to be discharged and re-*
20 *leased from active duty.*

21 *“(3) Each military occupational specialty cur-*
22 *rently or previously assigned to the qualified member*
23 *of the Armed Forces.*

24 *“(c) AVAILABILITY.—Information in the database shall*
25 *be available to offices, officials, and employees of the De-*

1 partment of Veterans Affairs to the extent the Secretary of
2 Veterans Affairs determines appropriate.

3 “(d) EXPEDITED HIRING PROCEDURES.—The Sec-
4 retary shall hire qualified members of the Armed Forces
5 who apply for vacant positions listed in the database estab-
6 lished under subsection (a) without regard to the provisions
7 of subchapter I of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code.

8 “(e) RELOCATION BONUS.—The Secretary may au-
9 thorize a relocation bonus, in an amount determined appro-
10 priate by the Secretary and subject to the same limitations
11 as in the case of the authority provided under section 5753
12 of title 5, to any qualified member of the Armed Forces who
13 has accepted a position listed in the database established
14 under subsection (a).”.

15 (4) In subsection (g)(1), as redesignated in para-
16 graph (2), by striking “subsection (b)” and inserting
17 “subsection (g)”.

18 (5) In subsection (h), as redesignated in para-
19 graph (2), by striking “of this Act” and inserting “of
20 the Veterans Serving Veterans Act of 2018, and annu-
21 ally thereafter”.

22 (6) By adding after subsection (h), as redesi-
23 gnedated in paragraph (2), the following new subsection:

1 “(i) *QUALIFIED MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES DE-*
2 *FINED.*—*In this section, the term ‘qualified member of the*
3 *Armed Forces’ means a member of the Armed Forces—*

4 “(1) described in section 1142(a) of title 10;

5 “(2) who elects to be listed in the database estab-
6 lished under subsection (a); and

7 “(3) who has been determined by the Secretary,
8 in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, to have
9 a military occupational specialty that corresponds to
10 a vacant position described in subsection (a).”.

11 (b) *IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.*—Not later than 180 days
12 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
13 of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Vet-
14 erans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Sen-
15 ate a plan to implement, including a timeline, section 208
16 of the VA Choice and Quality Employment Act of 2017
17 (Public Law 115–46; 38 U.S.C. 701 note), as amended by
18 this section.

19 **SEC. 3. INTERMEDIATE CARE TECHNICIAN TRAINING PRO-**
20 **GRAM.**

21 (a) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—The Secretary of Veterans Af-
22 fairs shall implement a program to train and certify cov-
23 ered veterans to work as intermediate care technicians in
24 the Department of Veterans Affairs.

25 (b) *LOCATIONS.*—

1 (1) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—*The Secretary shall establish*
2 *centers at medical facilities of the Department selected by the Secretary for the purposes of carrying*
3 *out the program under subsection (a).*

5 (2) *SELECTION OF MEDICAL FACILITIES.*—*In selecting a medical facility of the Department under this subsection to serve as a center, the Secretary shall consider—*

9 (A) *the experience and success of the facility in training intermediate care technicians; and*
10 (B) *the availability of resources of the facility to train intermediate care technicians.*

13 (c) *COVERED VETERAN DEFINED.*—*In this section, the term “covered veteran” means a veteran whom the Secretary determines served as a basic health care technician while serving in the Armed Forces.*

17 **SEC. 4. NO AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

18 *No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 208 of the VA Choice and Quality Employment Act of 2017 (Public Law 115–46; 38 U.S.C. 701 note), as amended by section 2 of this Act, or to carry out section 3 of this Act. Such sections shall be carried out using amounts otherwise authorized to be appropriated for such purpose.*

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